



# COMMUTER LINES

Volume 12, Number 4

4th Quarter 2005

## LA Swift offers free bus service from BR to NO

**L**A Swift, a free emergency Baton Rouge-to-New Orleans bus service for hurricane-displaced residents, rolled out Oct. 31 with an impressive ridership of 97 people.

The program, which began as a 15-day trial period, will continue to operate at least through Feb. 28, 2006.

As of Dec. 30, 2005, LA Swift had provided more than 25,000 free rides to workers and job seekers.

The service is designed to transport displaced residents with no transportation from Baton Rouge to New Orleans and back for jobs, job searches and similar recovery efforts.

LA Swift, for which FEMA is providing up to 25



*Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco greets one of the first riders of LA Swift on Oct. 31.*

climate-controlled coach buses and bus drivers a day, is an initiative of the Louisiana Recovery Authority, a 23-member body appointed by Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco to oversee short-term and long-term recovery efforts in Louisiana.

Andy Kopplin, executive director of the Louisiana Recovery Authority, said, "One of LRA's goals was to reconnect workers with jobs and ensure that Louisianians are participating in rebuilding their own state. This bus service makes that happen

and suggests that there is a benefit to new transportation links between Baton Rouge and New Orleans."

LA Swift is coordinated by DOTD and the Department of Labor in cooperation with the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority and the Capital Area Transit System.

"We're happy that people are able to get back to New Orleans to start work again, to look for a new job or just to start rebuilding their lives," said Johnny B.



**See LA SWIFT, page 5**

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# BITS AND PIECES JOHNNY B. BRADBERRY, SECRETARY

## DOTD will meet challenge of rebuilding

**D**OTD and its industry partners started this fiscal year with an aggressive statewide construction program and a pumped-up TIMED program. These projects combined to give us planned lettings of approximately \$1.3 billion, a figure that represents more than DOTD's entire 2003 budget, including construction. Back in July, project managers were even talking about how to handle the inevitable competition among big-ticket projects (La. 1, the Huey Long Bridge, Florida Avenue Bridge, the St. Francisville-New Roads Bridge) for qualified companies, materials, supplies, equipment and manpower.

Then came Katrina, followed shortly by Rita. By mid-September, the questions concerning roads and bridges in Louisiana were (1) how much will it cost to repair and replace damaged roads and bridges, (2) who's going to pay for it and (3) how will all of this affect the other projects in Louisiana.

I'll try to answer each of those questions now.

Total cost for replacing and repairing roads and bridges because of the hurricanes is about \$1.1 billion, but that doesn't include damage to ports, navigational systems, airports, transit systems or rail lines. It also doesn't include funds to help the Baton Rouge, Hammond and Lafayette areas cope with the traffic that resulted from a 30-40 percent increase in population because of the evacuations. And it certainly doesn't include needed projects to protect our area from future events, such as elevating I-10/I-610 in the New Orleans area, widening the interstates in south Louisiana, building and improving hurricane evacuation routes such as I-49 South, La. 1, and a Houma-Thibodaux connector to



*See BITS, page 4*

### ON THE ROAD WITH BRADBERRY

#### ABBREVIATED CALENDAR

##### October 2005

- 5 Discuss issues to present to Governor
- 6 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita repair costs overview
- 7 St. Tammany Parish transportation meeting
- 10 Meeting with the Governor regarding levees
- 11 Shreveport Rotary Club meeting
- 12 Lake Charles Port Association Meeting
- 13 Joint rebuilding team meeting with DOTD, DNR and PSC
- FEMA housing for employees meeting
- 20 Monroe Rotary Club meeting
- 24 Governor's Coastal Commission
- 25-27 Washington, D.C.

##### November 2005

- 2 Meeting to discuss DOTD's Congressional request
- 9 Tune In on Channel 2
- 15 WWL Radio Interview
- 17 Acadiana Delegation Lunch meeting
- 23 Meeting with Charlie Melancon
- 28 Meeting with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the U.S.

##### December 2005

- 1 Tony Sussmann retirement open house
- 5 Monthly levee meeting with General Crear, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- 7 Meeting with Ken Burris, COO of FEMA
- 14 Sheet pile extraction at the 17th Street Canal

#### SECRETARY

Johnny B. Bradberry

#### DEPUTY SECRETARY

Cedric Grant

#### COMMUTER LINES STAFF

Mark Lambert

Cleo Allen

Sherry Dupre

Lindsay Ruiz de Chavez



## DOTD distributes \$39,000 from hurricane relief fund

Nearly \$39,000 donated so far to DOTD's Hurricane Relief Fund was to be distributed shortly before Christmas to 180 employees, according to Pam Dantin, human resources manager.

Dantin, one of five members of the Hurricane Relief Fund Committee, said each of the designated displaced employees was to receive \$216. And contributions are still being accepted to the fund.

As of Dec. 15, some \$38,766.98 had been donated to the fund, created to provide assistance to employees affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Three-fourths of the amount, or \$29,000, was donated by the Texas Department of Transportation employees. And another \$6,000, or 15 percent of the total, was donated by the American Concrete Pavement Association.

Other out-of-state donations included \$300 from the Minnesota Department of Transportation's District 7 Mankato HIWAYAN

Club, a social organization for employees; and \$242.98 from the North Dakota DOT's Standing Committee on Maintenance.

Dantin added that the LA DOTD Federal Credit Union added about \$100 so the checks could be issued for an even amount, for a total amount donated by the credit union and its employees to \$1,393.

She said the committee wishes to thank everyone who made a contribution, small or large.

"We at DOTD are so glad to be able to provide assistance to the friends we work beside each day," she said. "We also appreciate the efforts of the committee to make distribution fair and equitable."

In addition to Dantin, the committee included representatives from the LA DOTD Credit Union, Louisiana Transportation Employee Association, Audit and Human Resources sections: Michelle Lacour, Joseph Prudhomme, Rusty Perilloux and Ranzy Montet, respectively.

Here's how the process



worked: Each affected district provided a list of affected DOTD workers, who had to be actively employed and have filed a claim with FEMA. The person may have lost an immediate family member (parent, sibling or child) and/or have become displaced after losing his or her residence (a home/apartment that was habitable prior to the hurricane).

Dantin said more than 600 names were provided by the districts, and that list was then reduced to the hardest-hit 180 individuals.

To make a contribution, go to the LA DOTD Federal Credit Union in person or mail a check to LA DOTD Federal Credit Union, P.O. Box 2111, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2111. Checks should be made out to the LA DOTD Credit Union.

## DOTD, partners launch statewide holiday safety campaign



*As a symbol of the campaign message, a holiday tree stood on the lawn of Headquarters in Baton Rouge.*

This holiday season, DOTD, the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, the Federal Highway Administration and Louisiana State Police urged drivers to be cautious on Louisiana's roads and arrive at their destinations safely.

The "Safe Holidays are Happy Holidays" campaign aimed to remind holiday travelers to stay safe on the roads this holiday season.

The campaign included a statewide public service announcement, which asked holiday travelers to "take extra care on the

road by obeying posted speed limits, paying attention to signs and signals, wearing your seat belt and refraining from drinking and driving." The PSA pointed out that "following these simple driving tips could mean the difference between a joyous holiday and a tragic new year."

The PSA aired on Louisiana Network during the last two weeks of December. By using the radio as its medium, DOTD hoped to reach many holiday travelers at an opportune time – while they were on the road.

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# DOTD schedules its final debris sweep in Washington, St. Tammany parishes

**D**OTD plans to make its final sweep of debris from state roads in Washington and St. Tammany parishes in early January.

Freddie Gardner, DOTD program manager, said the final sweep started Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2005, and will end Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006. Gardner said DOTD's contractor, DRC Inc. LLC, will collect all debris from beside state roads within the rights-of-way through the deadline.

Gardner urged parish residents to put their storm debris before the deadline. He also noted that the pickup is only for storm debris, not regular household garbage.

"We are all interested in improving how our roads and communities look, so please help us ensure that no debris is placed along the road after that date," he said.

On Dec. 21, the White House extended the 100-percent federal cost share for public assistance until June 30, 2006, which means that the federal govern-



*Hurricane Katrina left many Louisiana roads, such as U.S. 90 in St. Tammany Parish, shown here, strewn with debris.*

ment will continue to pay for projects like debris removal beyond the previous deadline of Jan. 15, 2006.

To date, DOTD has been responsible for the collection of more than 2.5 million cubic yards of debris from state roads since hurricanes Katrina and Rita at a cost of \$90 million. The amount of debris collected is the equivalent of 125,000 filled garbage trucks.

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## **BITS** (from page 2)

I-10. The price tag for all of these projects is about \$10.6 billion – real money.

Who will pay for this? We are working very closely with the Federal Highway Administration and FEMA to secure 100 percent financing on as much of this work as possible. In December, Congress approved \$29 billion in hurricane relief funds. Still, it is important that we keep this issue in front of Congress and that our voices be heard.

How will this affect other projects in Louisiana? My intention is that DOTD will continue its statewide construction program and the TIMED program "full speed ahead." While I know that the entire state mourns the loss of life and devastation of property in south Louisiana, the pre-hurricane statewide needs are just as great today as they were years ago, when the projects were still being planned. The TIMED program will let three major bridge projects this year and will continue

work on U.S. 165, U.S. 171, U.S. 167 and U.S. 425. We recently opened bids for La. 1. This year we will also show progress on La. 28 from Alexandria to Fort Polk, and we will keep working to connect Shreveport with Arkansas along I-49 North.

Of course, our industry partners are a key component to making all of this happen. That's why I consider it of utmost importance that we continue our open and frank dialogue about our infrastructure and the future of this state. I believe that hard times force hard decisions that define the future. I am hopeful that, in this dark time in Louisiana history, we will move forward, together with confidence, to meet the challenges of rebuilding a great state.

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# Four-laning of La. 28 complete in Vernon Parish

**D**OTD marked the completion of the four-laning of a section of La. 28 in Vernon Parish with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday, Nov. 30.

“Since La. 28 is a vital link between Fort Polk and Alexandria, the completion of this project is a significant accomplishment,” said Cedric Grant, deputy secretary of DOTD. “It shows that Louisiana is doing its part to keep Fort Polk alive.”

The project involved widening 7.63 miles of roadway on La. 28, from its intersection with La. 8 to the intersection of La. 121. The scope of the project was to add to two travel lanes and a median to the existing two-lane roadway, creating a four-lane divided highway. The existing pavement also was replaced.

This project is the second project of six to be completed along the La. 8/La. 28 corridor between U.S. 171 in Vernon Parish and Bayou Boeuf in Rapides Parish. More than 40 miles will be widened in the complete project; currently, it is 30 percent complete.

State Rep. John R. Smith served as master of cer-



*Cedric Grant, DOTD deputy secretary, addresses attendees to the La. 28 ribbon-cutting ceremony.*

emonies for the event, which took place on the unopened lanes of La. 28 near Wise Burn Road in Leesville.

In addition to Smith, remarks were given by Grant and Col. Rodney K. Alston, deputy commander of the Joint Readiness and Training Center and Fort Polk.

Gilchrist Construction Co. was the contractor on the project, and Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix and Hixson Inc. was the project's designer. The DOTD project engineer was Matthew Ziecker. The \$22.3 million project was let for construction in April 2002.

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## LA SWIFT *(from page 1)*

Bradberry, secretary of DOTD and team leader for transportation and infrastructure for LRA.

“We already have contacted a number of business and industry groups in the New Orleans area to make them aware of the potential employees that will be coming there,” DOL Secretary John Warner Smith said. “We want job seekers to know that employers in the construction, hospitality and retail markets are eager to hire them. The bus service can help them get those jobs.”

“The success of the bus service shows again how badly our people want to work and rebuild their lives,” the Governor said. “FEMA's decision to extend the service is a concrete example of how federal and local governments can find solutions that help our citizens.”

LA Swift is operating seven days a week, leaving the CATS Baton Rouge bus terminal on Florida on the morning and returning to Baton Rouge in the evening.

A free feeder bus is taking residents of Renaissance Village, the Groom Road FEMA community, to the CATS terminal and back.

Commuters also can ride regular Baton Rouge buses to the terminal, but standard fares are in place. Once riders get to the New Orleans drop-off point at Canal and Elks Place, RTA buses provide free service on 13 routes.

In order to serve more people who need transportation to and from work, LA Swift announced in late November that it will soon add stops between Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

“This will help more displaced people get back to work,” said Bradberry. “Businesses need workers, and the workers want the jobs. But they also need transportation, and the state can help by connecting businesses with employees.”

For more information, visit [www.laswift.com](http://www.laswift.com).

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**“THE SUCCESS OF THE BUS SERVICE SHOWS AGAIN HOW BADLY OUR PEOPLE WANT TO WORK AND REBUILD THEIR LIVES.”**

**— GOV. KATHLEEN BLANCO**

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# DOTD introduces Business Recovery Program, Center for disadvantaged business enterprises

**D**OTD has created a business recovery program and center to help small businesses certified as disadvantaged get back on track in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The department has been awarded \$1 million from the Federal Highway Administration to provide low-interest loans to certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, or DBEs, in the hurricane-affected areas to help them resume operations.

Meanwhile, a one-year extension on certification has been granted in the wake of the storms, announced DOTD Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry.

DOTD held an informational breakfast Dec. 14 at headquarters to introduce the program and its accompanying Business Recovery Center, which is being managed by Henry Consulting of New Orleans.

Some 200 Louisiana businesses are certified DBEs, meaning the companies are at least 51 percent owned and controlled by minorities, women or other socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. More than 80 of them were affected by the hurricanes.

The center itself, located in the DOTD Annex and operated by Henry Consulting, will provide assistance to certified DBEs with the loan application process and business registration, and also will help each business identify potential contracting opportunities at

*DOTD hosted an informational breakfast/reception for the Business Recovery Program Dec. 14.*



DOTD; assist with bidding, estimates, scheduling and other contracting services; and assist with insurance matters and the preparation of additional financial loan packages.

Any disadvantaged business, certified or not, also may use center facilities, including access to project plans; advice and referrals; and use of computers, fax machines and telephones. However, the loan program is designated for DBEs that were certified at the time of the storms and that were affected by the storms.

Bradberry said the breakfast was held in conjunction with a major bid-letting to ensure the appropriate audience for the information – owners of disadvantaged



businesses and prime contractors who might be able to use the DBEs as subcontractors in future projects.

“We’re trying to lower the barriers for these small businesses to get back into the marketplace,” he said. “We hope not only to help the businesses recoup equipment and materials they need to operate through the loan program, but the center also will be able to identify projects that the DBEs can target for work.”

For example, he said, the center will work to identify projects in which perhaps two or three DBEs can unite to bid on a project themselves as the prime contractor or seek opportunities to act as subcontractors.

Fran Gilson, DOTD compliance program director, said businesses interested in becoming a certified DBE should call her at (225) 379-1382.

For more information about the DBE Business Recovery Program, call the center at (225) 242.4631 or go to its Web site at [www.businessrecoverycenter.net](http://www.businessrecoverycenter.net).

## NEWS BRIEFS



From left, La. 1 Project Manager David Miller of DOTD and DOTD Undersecretary Michael Bridges bring home the Bond Buyer Magazine's "Deal of the Year" award for the Southeast Region. The award recognized DOTD's innovative financing methods for the La. 1 project.



Dana Newsome, communications director for Louisiana TIMED Managers, accepts the Baton Rouge Women in Media 2005 Award of Excellence in Public Relations.



Winners of the drawing at the winter "Books are Fun" benefit book sale were, above from left, Jacqui Sanchez of IT and Cassandra Gilbert of the Customer Service Center; and below from left, Alan Muse of Building Maintenance and Delores Matthews of Planning and Programming. Ten percent of the event's proceeds will be donated to DOTD's partner school, Scotlandville Middle Magnet High.



DOTD recently received an award from the National Keep America Beautiful organization for its assistance with its state affiliates. The recognition also commended DOTD for its litter collection administration efforts, which are coordinated with sheriffs, Adopt-a-Road, corrections and district offices.



Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry presents, from left, Deidre Adams, Peter Allain and Kirt Clement with a certificate from AASHTO, recognizing them for 25 years each of service to DOTD.

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# QUARTERLY RECOGNITION AWARDS

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(QUARTER ENDING JUNE 2005)

## **Headquarters**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Deana M. Sowards

### **Manager of the Quarter**

Harold Beck

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Brad Brandt, Victoria Carter,  
Tanya Hernandez, Frances  
Samson, David Slayter, David  
Smith, Maurice Songy and Allen  
Taylor.

## **District 02**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

M.W. "Leecy" Rodriguez

### **Manager of the Quarter**

Michel "Sid" Mailhes

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

None

## **District 03**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Harold Castille

### **Manager of the Quarter**

Brian Ducote

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Larry Champagne, James Mark  
DeLoux, Koury Lafosse, Kyle  
Taylor, and Carl Thibodeaux.

## **District 04**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Tommie Norton

### **Manager of the Quarter**

Steve Smith

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Romerelo Guerra, Randy Jones,  
Clarence McCoy, Jack Parker,  
Earnest Smith, Williams Thomas,  
Jeffery Townsend, Clayton

Warren, and Ronnie Welch.

## **District 05**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Bradley K. Trichel

### **Manager of the Quarter**

Britt D. Trichel

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Joshua R. Beach, Melvin E.  
Gilbert, Glen A. Hall, David K.  
Herrington, Tommy James,  
Thomas O. Murray, Jesse L.  
Reese, Shelby A. Templeton Jr.,  
Delores B. Watts, and Phillip D.  
Wheelis.

## **District 07**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Mike Hardey

### **Manager of the Quarter**

Kevin Watkins

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Ignatius Andrus, Ushary Bellard,  
Andrus Cross, Cecil Davis Jr.,  
Gregory Horn, Edward Jackson,  
David Porter, Elroy Renthrope,  
and Timothy Wilrye.

### **Secretary's Award of Excellence**

## **District 08**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

None

### **Manager of the Quarter**

None

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

None

## **District 58**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Billie Richard Massey Jr.

## **Manager of the Quarter**

William Richmond Jr.

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

David Lambert and Carey  
Goodwin.

## **District 61**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Jacqueline Rogillio

### **Manager of the Quarter**

None

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Mark Jarreau and Mark Martin

## **District 62**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Pete Lamonte

### **Manager of the Quarter**

None

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Kenneth Faust, Gary Galofaro,  
Salvadore Lamonte, Paul Luizza,  
Mario Messina, and Carlo  
Vaccaro.

### **Secretary's Award of Excellence**

Joyce L. Stevens and Travis R.  
Puls.

## **CCCD**

### **Employee of the Quarter**

Peggy Olivier

### **Manager of the Quarter**

Kuiana Addison

### **Best Team Effort of the Quarter**

Kuiana Addison, Keisha Clark,  
Louis Fahrman, Tina  
Henderson, Gwendolyn  
Lafrance, Steve Luthy, and  
Robyn Stoufflet.



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# PERSONNEL UPDATES

(SEPTEMBER 2005-NOVEMBER 2005)

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## NEW HIRES

### DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS

Darrell Jude Scott Sr.; Leonard Scott; and Nora Tippit Taylor

### DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

Lawrence J. Babineaux; Kevin Lee Colson; Jennifer Miller Cormier; Jean Bradley Duhon II; Derrick J. Elkins; Ronnie Lee King; Jeremy Harrison Kline; Toby J. LeBlanc; Joseph Whitney LeJeune Jr.; Dustin K. Murphy; Seth A. St. Martin; Joshua P. Stutes; and Walter J. Walker

### DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY

George Henry Alexander; Milton Allen Bonepart; Roy Junior Burgess; Larry James Carroll; Moses D. Hughes; Brandon L. Hunter; Damon Raphael Lamb; Jimmy Lynn Phillips; Christopher Cortez Robinson; Tracy C. Weston; and Gary L. Witt

### DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

Devin Mark Caldwell; Jearmon Demil Canfield; Jimmy D. Crockett; Melissa A. French; Brian A. Lingefelt; Shelby C. McMillan; and Jeremiah James Strozewski

### DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

Glenn D. Theriot Jr.; and Peggy Sue Whittington

### DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

Joseph Lee Rachal

### DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

Curtis E. Campbell Jr.; Robert Carter; Christopher L. Greer; and Linda L. Sikes

### DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE

Jessie T. Carraway; Luther Wesley Coates Jr.; and Ronnie Ray George

### DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

None

### HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Rickey L. Coleman; Pablyn Rebecca Doiron; Charlotte McLoney Garrison; Eric Jeansonne; Karen Haydel Kimball;

Randy Paul Madere; and Thomas Chris Matherne II; Jessica Elizabeth Ponce; David G. Ringuette; Robert James Royce; Huu Van Tran

## PROMOTIONS

### DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS

Willie Calloway Sr. and Walter B. Perdue

### DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

Todd Ambrose Alleman; Frank Citrano Jr.; and Koury N. Lafosse

### DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY

Jeffrey Edwin Allen; Donald Shane Bamberg; Danny T. Carr Jr.; Fulton Grier Jones III; William A. Long; Joseph P. Montondo; Tommie L. Norton; Roger D. Pruett; Jerry L. Ross; John G. Sanders; Boss Felton Walker; and Kenneth Ray Watson

### DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

Christopher A. Coates; Michael L. Cowart; Danny Gene Gaston; and James R. McCool

### DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

None

### DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

Larry G. Francisco; Glenda Faye Metoyer; Norah John Sers Jr.; and Paul D. Twilligear

### DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

James Kenneth Free; Dwayne Gatlin; and Don T. Willett

### DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE

Paul Martin Farkas; Steven J. Howze; Charles A. Manuel; Mark W. St. Romain; Calvin Thornton; and Nathan D. Wascom

### DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

Brian P. Giaratano

### HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Paula L. Berwick; Irving F. Coupel; Charles R. Curley; Michael D. Elliott; Joshua Cain Flynt; Stephen Wade

Glascok; Floyd H. Jordan Jr.; Allison Hedges Landry; Heather M. Robeau; Doris M. Robinson; Lili P. Spencer; Mark Samuel Suarez; and Kathleen Marie Ward

## RETIREMENTS

### DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS

Curtis Harris and Donald D. Slezak

### DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

Joseph Augustine Jr. and Charles M. Hicks

### DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY

Billy Davis; Carroner Hawk; and Henry L. Scott

### DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

James E. Davis Jr.; Sharon Sue Jerry; Charles W. Kendall Jr.; and Larry Gene Norrell

### DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

Lilly Grace Elder; Wilbert J. Kirklin; and Barry Lynn Langley

### DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

William Jason Bolds; Lester O. Bryant; Eugene Davis Coincon; Billy W. Jackson; Sharon Janet Morales; and Mannie S. Skursky

### DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

Vernell Finley; Donnie Joe Peppers; and William M. Richmond Jr.

### DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE

Jeffie L. Carter and Kenneth Macaluso

### DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

None

### HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

Rex W. Beachum; Robert E. Boagni; Theresa Marie Brewer; Katherine D. Davis; Harold L. Gerkin Jr.; Charles Glasper; Edward James Graff; Richard M. Johnson; Whitney J. Ledet III; David J. Moak; Kim Nguyen; Layne M. Sanders; Julie O. Sukkar; Ferdinand Theriot; Leonard Tillotson; Deborah M. Timmins; Richard J. Vicknair.

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## HR HOT TOPICS

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### MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REVIEWS COMING UP IN JANUARY

Now's the time for supervisors to schedule the midyear employee performance reviews with their direct reports. Our new PPR cycle is based on the fiscal (July-June) year, and policy requires that supervisors meet with employees during the month of January to informally review and discuss employee performance thus far.

### ONE-STOP JOB INFORMATION AND TEST FINDER

This useful tool for job seekers is now available on the Civil Service Web site. It allows viewers to easily access CS job specifications, testing/application information and locations of available jobs throughout state government. This improved service can be accessed at [www.dscs.state.la.us/asp/OneStop/JobInfoHomePage.htm](http://www.dscs.state.la.us/asp/OneStop/JobInfoHomePage.htm).

### UPDATE ON 360-DEGREE FEEDBACK PROGRAM

This program has been temporarily suspended until the start of fiscal year 2006-07. As you may know, this feedback process allows managers and executives to obtain input from peers, subordinates and customers for the purpose of professional/personal development.

### SUPERVISORY TRAINING AVAILABLE SPRING 2006

The "Writing Performance Expectations" course is being rewritten to accommodate DOTD's PPR procedural changes. Supervisors are encouraged to take this revised course as its focus will be on aligning individual employee expectations to specific Departmental/Section/District fiscal year goals. A formal schedule of classes is forthcoming from HR.

**For more information, please visit  
[www.dotd.louisiana.gov](http://www.dotd.louisiana.gov).**

## Technology Transfer

The following became certified inspectors between Sept. 1 and Nov. 31:

### Asphaltic Concrete Plant

#### Inspection:

Dallas Eric Palmer	District 61
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### Embankment and Base Course

#### Inspection:

Kenneth J. Reliford	District 04
Clint L. Harris	District 08
Batt Lewis	District 08

### Structural Concrete Inspection:

Ronald E. Branham	District 04
Donald Dewayne Mason	District 04

### Asphaltic Concrete Paving

#### Inspection:

Jarrod B. Francois	District 03
Tance P. Fremin	District 03
Leland M. Thibodeaux	District 03
Eddie G. Spillers	District 05
Steven R. Labouve	District 07
Virginia Ann Mitcham	District 08
Bryan Austin Fontenot	District 61

## CORRECTION

**In the last issue of Commuter Lines, we reported that District 08 didn't select a recipient for the 2004 Employee of the Year award. This is incorrect. Susan Gauthier is the winner of the award. We regret the error and congratulate Susan on her award.**

7,600 copies of this public document were published in one printing at a cost of \$1,064.95. This document was published for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development by the Division of Administration, Office of State Printing. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by State Agencies established in R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

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# MAILBAG



Dear Mr. Bradberry,

It is with extreme gratitude that I write this letter in thanking you for your office and especially Ms. Peggy Bueche in assisting us with the transportation for our residents back to Lake Charles, La., which were displaced, after Hurricane Rita, to Waco, Texas and Little Rock, Ark.

All of our residents were evacuated to the Veterans Administration Medical Centers in the mentioned cities after Hurricane Rita became a definite threat to this city, and with the assistance of Ms. Bueche, returned to us after all was repaired and inspected for quality and safety.

When our sister company, Martin de Porres Nursing Home, was in need of the same assistance, she came through again.

Ms. Bueche's attitude and professionalism is that of a person others should emulate. Thank you again.

Michael E. Wilde, NFA(P)  
1st Sgt., U.S. Army, Retired  
Administrator/Director  
Chennault Place Inc.

Dear Commuter Lines,

I am an employee from District 02. For Hurricane Katrina we evacuated to my sister's home in New Roads. I was told by my supervisor to go and find a gang in the area and work with them. I was lucky enough to find gang 540 in District 61. They accepted me from day one. This gang works very hard for our department. They knew that my area was very torn up from Hurricane Katrina and flooded by Hurricane Rita. They tried to make my working with them enjoyable. I would like to thank all of gang 540, especially Sammy Wagner and Charles Berthelot. It was a pleasure working with them.

Sandra R. Ory  
Highway Foreman 2  
Gang 910, District 02

We are always ready to thank the policemen, firefighters, EMTs and all other emergency people, but no one ever thinks about thanking our men and women that work with the Department of Transportation.

We are ready to downgrade these people that work on our roads, but never think about them being first responders. When we have a storm, they are called out. When we have an ice storm, they are called out. When we flood out, they go.

During the past two hurricanes, we have had people from the DOTD in Monroe go south to help. They are always the last to get a thank you or to get a raise.

My hat is off to these people. Thanks for the good work they do. By the way, my son works for DOTD, and I have a lot of respect for these people, and others should, too.

Peggy McMullen  
Cathoun

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## DOTD goes live with new traffic camera system

**D**OTD and partner TrafficLand Inc. have launched a more streamlined and efficient traffic camera system for Baton Rouge-area motorists.

The new system, TrafficLand, refreshes the camera images twenty times faster than the old system, or one frame per three seconds to the former one frame per minute. Currently, DOTD has 22 functioning closed-circuit televisions in the Baton Rouge area. The cameras provide clear and predictable images to the public. The new system is also more cost effective, according to Stephen Glascock, DOTD traffic operations administrator.

"This system provides high quality images of traffic conditions to the public and does so at a reasonable cost to the department" said Glascock. "The images will be displayed more quickly giving citizens a better sense of real-time conditions."

TrafficLand designed the solution, procured and installed the equipment in the Baton Rouge Advanced Traffic Management and Emergency Operations Center and will support the system at no charge to

DOTD. DOTD will pay monthly communication costs associated with furnishing the video imagery to the Internet. This connection is required, and allows the video streams to be sent to TrafficLand's Web server.

TrafficLand provides electronic traffic information services for consumers, public safety, government and media markets. Developed as a public-private partnership with state departments of transportation, the Web site helps the driving public avoid traffic congestion and emergency responders improve incident response.

The TrafficLand system already is in use in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Washington, D.C.

To view the traffic cameras, please visit [www.dotd.louisiana.gov](http://www.dotd.louisiana.gov) or [www.trafficland.com](http://www.trafficland.com).

